

### Abstract

A method and apparatus for balancing processing loads to avoid starvation of threads is described. A method of load balancing evaluates the load and state of multiple processors. If at least one processor is in a source state and at least one processor is in a sink state, the processing load is balanced to avoid starvation. A thread  
5 is transferred from the heaviest loaded, source state processor to the least loaded, sink state processor. Each processor load and state is then reevaluated and, if needed, the load balancing with starvation avoidance repeated.